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- From imposition of strict laws, to free
Acceptance of large grace; from servile fear
To filial; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. P. Lest.*
4. Confract; oppression.
The constraint of receiving and holding opinions by authority was rightly called *imposition*.
A greater load has been laid on us than we have been able to bear, and the grossest *impositions* have been submitted to, in order to forward the dangerous designs of a faction. *Swift.*
Let it not be made, contrary to its own nature, the occasion of strife, a narrow spirit, and unreasonable *impositions* on the mind and practice. *Watt's Improvement of the Mind.*
5. Cheat; fallacy; imposture.
IMPOSSIBLE. *adj.* [*impossibile*, Fr. *in* and *possibile*.] Not to be done; not to be attained; impracticable.
Unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoying; but *impossible* desires are punished in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
It was *impossible* that the state should continue quiet. 2 *Mac.*
With men this is *impossible*; but with God all things are possible. *Mat. xix. 26.*
'Twere *impossible* for any enterprize to be lawful, if that which should legitimate it is subsequent to it. *Decay of Piety.*
Difficult it is, but not *impossible*. *Chillingworth.*
It is *impossible* the mind should be stopped any where in its progress in this space, how far soever it extends its thoughts. *Lack.*
We cannot believe it *impossible* to God to make a creature with more ways to convey into the understanding the notice of corporeal things than five. *Lack.*
I my thoughts deceive
With hope of things *impossible* to find. *Walsh.*
- IMPOSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*impossibilitas*, Fr. from *impossible*.]
1. Impracticability; the state of being not feasible.
Simple Philoclea, it is the *impossibility* that doth torment me; for unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoying, but *impossible* desires in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
Admit all these *impossibilities* and great absurdities to be possible and convenient. *Whitefist.*
Let the mutinous winds
Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fiery sun,
Murdering *impossibility*, to make
What cannot be, flight work. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*
They confound difficulty with *impossibility*. *South.*
Those who assert the *impossibility* of space existing without matter, must make body infinite. *Lack.*
When we see a man of like passions and weakness with ourselves going before us in the paths of duty, it confutes all lazy pretences of *impossibility*. *Rogers.*
2. That which cannot be done.
Though men do, without offence, with daily that the affairs, which with evil success are past, might have fallen out much better; yet to pray that they may have been any other than they are, this being a manifest *impossibility* in itself, the rules of religion do not permit.
Impossibilities! oh no, there's none, *Cowley.*
Could I bring thy heart captive home.
IMPOST. *n. f.* [*impost*, *impost*, French; *impositum*, Latin.] A tax; a toll; custom paid.
Taxes and *imposts* upon merchants do seldom good to the king's revenue; for that that he wins in the hundred, he loseth in the three. *Bacon's Essays.*
- IMPOSTS. *n. f.* [*imposte*, Fr. *incumbit*, Latin.] In architecture, that part of a pillar, in vaults and arches, on which the weight of the whole building lieth. *Ainsworth.*
- To IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. n.* [from *imposthume*.] To form an abscess; to gather; to form a cyst or bag containing matter.
The bruise *imposthumated*, and afterwards turned to a stinking ulcer, which made every body shy to come near her. *Arbutnot.*
- To IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. a.* To afflict with an imposthume.
They would not fly that surgeon, whose lancet threatens none but the *imposthumated* parts. *Decay of Piety.*
- IMPOSTHUMATION. *n. f.* [from *imposthume*.] The act of forming an imposthume; the state in which an imposthume is formed.
He that maketh the wound bleed inwards, endangereth malign ulcers and pernicious *imposthumations*. *Bacon's Essays.*
- IMPOSTHUME. *n. f.* [This seems to have been formed by corruption from *impostum*, as *South* writes it; and *impostum* to have been written erroneously for *apostem*, ἀποστημα, an abscess.] A collection of purulent matter in a bag or cyst.
Now the rotten diseases of the South, ruptures, catarrhs, and bladders full of *imposthumes*, make preposterous discoveries.
An error in the judgment is like an *impostum* in the head, which is always noisome, and frequently mortal. *South.*
Fumes cannot transude through the bag of an *imposthume*. *Harvey on Consumptions.*
- IMPOSTOR. *n. f.* [*impostor*, Fr. from *impost*; *impostor*, Latin.] One who cheats by a fictitious character.
Shame and pain, poverty and sickness, yea death and hell

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- itself, are but the trophies of those fatal conquests got by that grand *impostor*, the devil, over the deluded sons of men. *South.*
- IMPOSTURE. *n. f.* [*impostura*, Fr. *impostura*, Latin.] Cheat; fraud; supposititiousness; cheat committed by giving to persons or things a false character.
That the soul and angels have nothing to do with grosser locality is generally opinioned; but who is it that retains not a great part of the *imposture*, by allowing them a definitive *ubi*, which is still but imagination? *Glamo. Scip.*
Open to them so many of the interior secrets of this mysterious art, without *imposture* or invidious reserve. *Everyd.*
We know how successful the late usurper was, while his army believed him real in his zeal against kingship; but when they found out the *imposture*, upon his aspiring to the same himself, he was presently deserted, and never able to crown his usurped greatness with that title. *South.*
Form new legends,
And fill the world with follies and *impostures*. *Iren.*
- IMPOTENCE. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]
IMPOTENCY. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]
1. Want of power; inability; imbecility; weakness.
Some were poor by *impotency* of nature; as young fatherless children, old decrepit persons, idiots, and cripples. *Ray.*
Weakness, or the *impotence* of exercising animal motion, attends fevers. *Arbutnot.*
God is a friend and a father, whose care supplies our wants, and defends our *impotence*, and from whose compassion in Christ we hope for eternal glory hereafter. *Rogers's Sonnet.*
This is not a restraint or *impotency*, but the royal prerogative of the most absolute king of kings; that he wills to do nothing but what he can; and that he can do nothing which is repugnant to his divine goodness. *Bentley.*
2. Ungovernableness of passion. A Latin signification: *animi impotentia*.
Will he, so wife, let loose at once his ire,
Belike through *impotence*, or unaware,
To give his enemies their wish, and end
Them in his anger, whom his anger saves
To punish evils? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Yet all combin'd,
Your beauty and my *impotence* of mind. *Dryden.*
3. Incapacity of propagation.
Dulness with obsequy must prove
As hateful, sure, as *impotence* in love. *Page.*
- IMPO'TENT. *adj.* [*impotent*, Fr. *impotens*, Latin.]
1. Weak; feeble; wanting force; wanting power.
We that are strong must bear the imbecility of the *impotent*, and not please ourselves.
Yet wealth is *impotent*
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd.
Although in dreadful whirls we hung,
High on the broken wave,
I knew thou wert not flow to hear,
Nor *impotent* to save. *Addison's Spectator.*
2. Disabled by nature or disease.
In those porches lay a great multitude of *impotent* folk, of blind, halt, and withered. *Jo. v. 3.*
There sat a certain man, *impotent* in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. *Mat. xiv.*
I have learn'd that fearful commenting
Is leaden servitor to dull delay;
Delay leads *impotent* and snail-pac'd beggary. *Shaksp. R. III.*
3. Without power of restraint. [*Animi impotens*.]
With jealous eyes at distance she had seen,
Whispering with Jove, the silver-footed queen;
Then, *impotent* of tongue, her silence broke,
Thus turbulent in rattling tone she spoke. *Dryden.*
4. Without power of propagation.
He told beau Prim, who is thought *impotent*, that his mistress would not have him, because he is a sloven, and had committed a rape.
IMPOTENTLY. *adv.* [from *impotent*.] Without power.
Proud Caesar, midst triumphal cars,
The spoils of nations, and the pomp of wars,
Ignobly vain, and *impotently* great,
Shew'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in state. *Page.*
- To IMPOUND. *v. a.* [in and *pound*. See POUND.]
1. To inclose as in a pound; to shut in; to confine.
The great care was rather how to *impond* the rebels, that none of them might escape, than that any doubt was made to vanquish them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
2. To shut up in a pinfold.
England
Hath taken and *imponded* as a stray *Shakspere's Henry V.*
The king
Seeing him wander about, I took him up for a stray, and
imponded him, with intention to restore him to the right owner. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*
- To IMPOWER. See EMPOWER.
- IMPRAC'TICABLE. *adj.* [*impracticable*, Fr. *in* and *practicable*.]
1. Not to be performed; unfeasible; impossible. *Had.*

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- Had there not been still remaining bodies, the legitimate offsprings of the antediluvian earth, 'twould have been an extravagant and *impracticable* undertaking to have gone about to determine any thing concerning it. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
To preach up the necessity of that which our experience tells us is utterly *impracticable*, were to affright mankind with the terrible prospect of universal damnation. *Rogers's Sermon.*
2. Untractable; unmanageable.
That fierce *impracticable* nature
Is govern'd by a dainty-finger'd girl. *Rowe.*
- IMPRAC'TICABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *impracticable*.] Impossibility.
I do not know a greater mark of an able minister than that of rightly adapting the several faculties of men, nor is any thing more to be lamented than the *impracticableness* of doing this. *Swift.*
- To IMPRECATE. *v. a.* [*imprecator*, Latin.] To call for evil upon himself or others.
IMPRECATION. *n. f.* [*imprecatio*, Lat. *imprecation*, Fr. from *imprecate*.] Curse; prayer by which any evil is wished.
My mother shall the horrid furies raise
With *imprecations*. *Chapman's Odyssey.*
Sir John Hocham, uncurst by any language or *imprecation* of mine, not long after paid his own and his eldest son's heads. *King Charles.*
With *imprecations* thus he fill'd the air,
And angry Neptune heard th' unrighteous pray'r. *Pope.*
- IMPRECATORY. *adj.* [from *imprecate*.] Containing wishes of evil.
To IMPREGN. *v. a.* [in and *pregno*, Latin.] To fill with young; to fill with any matter or quality.
In her ears the found
Yet rung of his persuasive words, *impregn'd*
With reason, to her seeming. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Th' unfruitful rock itself, *impregn'd* by thee,
Forms lucid fountains. *Parnassus's Summer.*
- IMPREGNABLE. *adj.* [*imprenable*, French.]
1. Not to be stormed; not to be taken.
Two giants kept themselves in a castle, seated upon the top of a rock, *impregnable*, because there was no coming to it but by one narrow path, where one man's force was able to keep down an army. *Sidney.*
Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,
Which he hath given for fence *impregnable*,
And with their helps alone defend ourselves. *Shaksp. H. VI.*
Hast thou not him, and all
Which he calls his, inclosed with a wall
Of strength *impregnable*? *Sandys.*
There the capitol thou see'st
Above the rest lifting his stately head
On the T'arpeian rock, her citadel
Impregnable. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd, b. iv.*
2. Unshaken; unmoved; unaffected.
The man's affection remains wholly unconcerned and *impregnable*; just like a rock, which, being plied continually by the waves, still throws them back again, but is not at all moved. *South's Sermons.*
- IMPREGNABLY. *adv.* [from *impregnable*.] In such a manner as to defy force or hostility.
A castle strongly seated on a high rock, joineth by an isthmus to the land, and is *impregnably* fortified. *Sandys.*
- To IMPREGNATE. *v. a.* [in and *pregno*, Latin.]
1. To fill with young; to make prolific.
Hermaphrodites, although they include the parts of both sexes, cannot *impregnate* themselves. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*
Impregnate, from their loins they shed
A slimy juice. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*
The blood, endu'd with animating heat,
Did in the *impregnate* earth new sons beget. *Dryden.*
2. [*Impregner*, French.] To fill; to saturate.
Christianity is of so prolific a nature, so apt to *impregnate* the hearts and lives of its profelytes, that it is hard to imagine that any branch should want a due fertility. *Decay of Piety.*
- IMPREGNATION. *n. f.* [from *impregnate*.]
1. The act of making prolific; fecundation.
They ought to refer matters unto counsellors, which is the first begetting of *impregnation*; but when they are elaborate in the womb of their counsel, and grow ripe to be brought forth, then they take the matter back into their own hands. *Bacon.*
2. That with which any thing is impregnated.
What could implant in the body such peculiar *impregnations*, as should have such power? *Derham's Physico-theology.*
3. [*Impregnation*, French.] Saturation.
IMPREJUDICATE. *adj.* [in, *pre*, and *judicio*, Latin.] Unprejudiced; not prepossessed; impartial.
The solid reason of one man with *imprejudicate* apprehensions, begets as firm a belief as the authority or aggregated testimony of many hundreds. *Brown.*
- IMPREPARATION. *n. f.* [in and *preparation*.] Unpreparedness; want of preparation.
Impreparation and unreadiness when they find in us, they turn it to the soothing up of themselves. *Holcr.*

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- To IMPRESS. *v. a.* [*impressum*, Latin.]
1. To print by pressure; to stamp.
So foul and ugly, that exceeding fear
Their villages *impress*, when they approached near. *Fa. 2y.*
When God from earth form'd Adam in the East,
He his own image on the clay *impress'd*. *Denham.*
The conquering chief his foot *impress'd*
On the strong neck of that destructive beast. *Dryd. Ovid.*
2. To fix deep.
We should dwell upon the arguments, and *impress* the motives of persuasion upon our own hearts, 'till we feel the force of them. *Watts.*
3. To force into service. This is generally now spoken and written *press*.
His age has charms in it, his title more,
To pluck the common bosoms on his side,
And turn our *impress* launces in our eyes
Which do command them. *Shakspere's King Lear.*
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until
Great Birnam-wood to Dunfinane's high hill
Shall come against him.
—That will never be:
Who can *impress* the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? *Shakspere's Macbeth.*
Ormond should contribute all he could for the making those
levies of men, and for *impressing* of ships. *Clarendon.*
- IMPRE'SS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Mark made by pressure.
This weak *impress* of love is as a figure
Trench'd in ice, which with an hour's heat
Dissolves to water. *Shaksp. Two Gent. of Verona.*
They having taken the *impresses* of the insides of these shells
with that exquisite niceness, as to express even the finest lineaments of them. *Woodward's Nat. History.*
2. Effects upon another substance.
How objects are represented to myself I cannot be ignorant, but in what manner they are received, and what *impresses* they make upon the differing organs of another, he only knows that feels them. *Glauco. Scip.*
3. Mark of distinction; stamp.
God, surveying the works of the creation, leaves us this general *impress* or character upon them, that they were exceeding good. *South's Sermons.*
4. Device; motto.
To describe emblazon'd shields,
Impresses quaint, caparisons, and feeds,
Bases, and tinsel trappings. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
5. Act of forcing any into service; compulsion; seizure. Now commonly *press*.
Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an *impress*. *Shaksp. Troilus and Cressida.*
Why such *impress* of shipwrights, whose fore talk
Does not divide the Sunday from the week. *Shaksp. Hamlet.*
Your ships are not well mann'd;
Your mariners are multitudes, reapers, people
Ingrud by swift *impresses*. *Shaksp. Aut. and Cleopatra.*
- IMPRE'SSION. *n. f.* [*impressio*, Latin; *impressio*, Fr.]
1. The act of pressing one body upon another.
Sensation is such an *impression* or motion, made in some part of the body, as produces some perception in the understanding. *Lack.*
2. Mark made by pressure; stamp.
Like to a chaos, or unlick'd bear-whelp,
That carries no *impression* like the dam. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
3. Image fixed in the mind.
Were the offices of religion stript of all the external decencies, they would not make a due *impression* on the mind. *Atter.*
The false representations of the kingdom's enemies had made some *impression* in the mind of the successor. *Swift.*
4. Operation; influence.
The king had made him high sheriff of Suffex, that he might the better make *impression* upon that county. *Clarendon.*
We lie open to the *impressions* of flattery, which we admit without scruple, because we think we deserve it. *Atterbury.*
Universal gravitation is above all mechanism, and proceeds from a divine energy and *impression*. *Bentley's Sermons.*
There is a real knowledge of material things, when the thing itself, and the real action and *impression* thereof on our senses, is perceived. *Owens's Phil. Princ.*
5. Edition; number printed at once; one course of printing.
To be distracted with many opinions, makes men to be of the last *impression*, and full of change. *Bacon.*
For ten *impressions*, which his works have had in so many years, at present a hundred books are scarcely purchased once a twelvemonth. *Dryden.*
6. Effect of an attack.
Such a defeat of near two hundred horse, seconded with two thousand foot, may surely endure a comparison with any of the bravest *impressions* in ancient times. *Wotton.*
- IMPRE'SSIONABLE. *adj.* [in and *pression*, Lat.] What may be impressed.